



News Release

United States Navy

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Coriolis Weather Satellite launch delayed Mission Rescheduled to Tuesday

VANDENBERG AFB, Calif. – The Coriolis mission scheduled for launch here today aboard a Titan II Space Launch Vehicle has been rescheduled for 6:18 a.m. Tuesday.

The launch was delayed because winds exceeded constraints for the Mobile Service Tower to be rolled back from its position around the Titan II Space Launch Vehicle.

The weather forecast for Tuesday is also of concern. The Vandenberg Air Force Base 30th Weather Squadron posts weather information and launch weather forecasts to their web page at http://www.vandenberg.af.mil/30sw/organizations/30og/weather/weather_index.html.

Thick clouds and upper level winds may exceed flight constraints Tuesday and there is the possibility of thunderstorms.

The Air Force Coriolis mission will fly the Navy Windsat microwave polarimetric radiometer and Air Force Solar Mass Ejection Imager in a low Earth, sun synchronous orbit. The Windsat radiometer will provide important meteorological information on wind speed and direction at or near the surface of the ocean and the Solar Mass Ejection Imager will provide valuable early warning of coronal mass ejections that affect communications and power distribution systems here on earth.

The Coriolis mission is being assembled and launched by the Air Force Space and Missile Systems Center's Detachment 12 Space Test Program Office at Kirtland Air Force Base in Albuquerque, New Mexico using a refurbished Lockheed Martin Titan II booster and a Spectrum Astro spacecraft bus. Spectrum Astro is integrating the spacecraft bus and payloads with the Titan II for launch from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California. The National Polar-orbiting Operational Environmental Satellite System program office is participating in the Coriolis flight and will use the Windsat information in reducing risk for the Conical Microwave Imager Sounder.

For More Information:

A webcast of the launch should be available. There will be a time lag because of the networking used to bring this image to the web. The URL is: <http://science.ksc.nasa.gov/payload/missions/coriolis/>

Vandenberg Public Affairs Office operates a launch update line at 805-606-1857. This service will have the latest launch information. A photo of the Titan II Space Launch Complex and other images are available on the SPAWAR home page at <http://www.spawar.navy.mil>

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